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the specification as originally filed at pages 10-49. No new matter is believed to have been entered by the present amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Thornton for the helpful and courteous discussion with their undersigned Representative on March 19, 2003. The contents of this discussion are manifest in the amendments and remarks presented herein. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for indicating that the Restriction Requirement between Groups II and III has been withdrawn and the indication that process claims may be rejoined upon allowance of the product claims (paper number 7, page 3, numbered paragraph 4 and 6).

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 14, and 15 under 35 USC § 102(e) over Chaudhary et al is obviated by amendment.

The present invention provides, in part, a composition for laser processing comprising a polymer (A) containing 45% or more by mass of an ethylene unit as a repeating unit crosslinked with an organic peroxide (B), wherein said organic peroxide (B) is selected from the group consisting of t-butylhydroperoxide, 1,1,3,3-tetramethyl butylhydroperoxide, p-methanhydroperoxide, cumenhydroperoxide, diisopropyl-benzenhydroperoxide, 2,5-dimethylhexane-2,5-dihydroperoxide, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxy-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, di-t-butylperoxide, t-butylcumylperoxide, dicumylperoxide, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)cyclododecane, 2,2-bis(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxycyclohexane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)-i-propylbenzene, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(benzoylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, n-butyl-4,4-bis(t-butylperoxy)valerate, benzoylperoxide, m-toluyloperoxide, p-chlorobenzoylperoxide, 2,4-dicyclobenzoylperoxide, t-butylperoxy-i-butylate, t-

butylperoxi-2-ethylhexanoate, t-butylperoxibenzoate, t-butylperoxi-i-propylcarbonate, and t-butylperoxi-allylcarbonate, as well as seals containing this composition (see Claims 1 and 14). Also within the present invention, this composition may further comprise a foaming agent (see Claims 2 and 15).

Chaudhary et al disclose a process comprising (a) forming a polymeric admixture including at least one polyolefin which has been prepared using a single site catalyst and at least a crosslinking amount of at least one poly(sulfonyl azide) crosslinking agent; (b) shaping the resulting admixture; and (c) heating the resulting shaped admixture to a temperature at least the decomposition temperature of the crosslinking agent (see Abstract and Claim 1) and products obtained thereby (see Abstract).

In making this rejection, the Examiner points to comparative samples A-C in which an ethylene/octane copolymer (ethylenic polymer) is admixed with dicumylperoxide (an organic peroxide). The Examiner further notes that Chaudhary et al disclose foaming agents, such as azodicarboamide, in comparative sample F. However, Applicants note that the amendment presented herein specifically defines the organic peroxide, which excludes the ^{only} only organic peroxide disclosed by Chaudhary et al: dicumylperoxide. In order for a reference to anticipate an invention, the reference “must teach every element of the claim” (MPEP §2131). Accordingly, Chaudhary et al does not anticipate the present invention.

Moreover, Applicants note that, citing In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974), MPEP §2143.03 states: “To establish a prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” Applicants submit that the disclosure of Chaudhary et al fails to meet this requirement, and as such the artisan would have no motivation to obtain the claimed composition or any reasonable expectation of the advantageous obtained thereby. Therefore, the present invention would not even be obvious in view of the disclosure of Chaudhary et al.

Specifically, Applicants note that the only organic peroxide disclosed by Chaudhary et al is dicumylperoxide. Moreover, Chaudhary et al explicitly state that peroxides are undesirable crosslinking agents (see column 2, lines 25-28 and the claims). Therefore, the entire premise of Chaudhary et al is to teach the artisan away from the presently claimed invention, and thus the claimed organic peroxides. This *teaching away* is further emphasized by simple inspection of the Examples, which clearly show that the compositions containing dicumylperoxide are less desirable within their invention than the poly(sulfonyl azide). Therefore, Applicants submit that the disclosure of Chaudhary et al can not even support a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 14, and 15 over Chaudhary et al.

Applicants submit that the objection to the Abstract is obviated by the filing of the substitute Abstract appended herewith. Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A [polymeric material] composition for laser processing [being characterized in that a polymer composition] comprising a polymer (A) containing 45% or more by mass of an ethylene unit as a repeating unit [and] crosslinked with an organic peroxide (B) [is crosslinked], wherein said organic peroxide (B) is selected from the group consisting of t-butylhydroperoxide, 1,1,3,3-tetramethyl butylhydroperoxide, p-methanhydroperoxide, cumenhydroperoxide, diisopropyl-benzenhydroperoxide, 2,5-dimethylhexane-2,5-dihydroperoxide, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxy-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, di-t-butylperoxide, t-butylcumylperoxide, dicumylperoxide, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)cyclododecane, 2,2-bis(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxycyclohexane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)-i-propylbenzene, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(benzoylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, n-butyl-4,4-bis(t-butylperoxy)valerate, benzoylperoxide, m-toruylperoxide, p-chlorobenzoylperoxide, 2,4-dicyclobenzoylperoxide, t-butylperoxy-i-butylate, t-butylperoxy-2-ethylhexanoate, t-butylperoxybenzoate, t-butylperoxy-i-propylcarbonate, and t-butylperoxy-allylcarbonate.

2. (Amended) A [polymeric material] composition for laser processing [being characterized in that a polymer composition] comprising a polymer (A) containing 45% or more by mass of an ethylene unit as a repeating unit [and] crosslinked with an organic peroxide (B) and is foamed with a foaming agent (C) [is crosslinked and foamed], wherein

said organic peroxide (B) is selected from the group consisting of t-butylhydroperoxide, 1,1,3,3-tetramethyl butylhydroperoxide, p-methanhydroperoxide, cumenhydroperoxide, diisopropyl-benzenhydroperoxide, 2,5-dimethylhexane-2,5-dihydroperoxide, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxy-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, di-t-butylperoxide, t-butylcumylperoxide, dicumylperoxide, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)cyclododecane, 2,2-bis(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxicyclohexane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy-i-propyl)benzene, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(benzoylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, n-butyl-4,4-bis(t-butylperoxy)terephthalate, benzoylperoxide, m-toluyperoxide, p-chlorobenzoylperoxide, 2,4-dicyclobenzoylperoxide, t-butylperoxy-i-butylate, t-butylperoxy-2-ethylhexanoate, t-butylperoxybenzoate, t-butylperoxy-i-propylcarbonate, and t-butylperoxy-allylcarbonate.

14. (Amended) A [material for a characterized in that is made of a polymeric material for laser processing that a] seal obtained by engraving with laser processing a polymer composition comprising a polymer (A) containing 45% or more by mass of an ethylene unit as a repeating unit [and] crosslinked with an organic peroxide (B) [is crosslinked], wherein said organic peroxide (B) is selected from the group consisting of t-butylhydroperoxide, 1,1,3,3-tetramethyl butylhydroperoxide, p-methanhydroperoxide, cumenhydroperoxide, diisopropyl-benzenhydroperoxide, 2,5-dimethylhexane-2,5-dihydroperoxide, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxy-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, di-t-butylperoxide, t-butylcumylperoxide, dicumylperoxide, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)cyclododecane, 2,2-bis(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxicyclohexane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy-i-propyl)benzene, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(benzoylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, n-butyl-4,4-bis(t-butylperoxy)terephthalate, benzoylperoxide, m-toluyperoxide, p-chlorobenzoylperoxide, 2,4-dicyclobenzoylperoxide, t-butylperoxy-i-butylate, t-

butylperoxi-2-ethylhexanoate, t-butylperoxibenzoate, t-butylperoxi-i-propylcarbonate, and t-butylperoxi-allylcarbonate.

15. (Amended) A [material for a characterized in that is made of a polymeric material for laser processing that a] seal obtained by engraving with laser processing a polymer composition comprising a polymer (A) containing 45% or more by mass of an ethylene unit as a repeating unit [and] crosslinked with an organic peroxide (B) and is foamed with a foaming agent (C) [is crosslinked and foamed], wherein said organic peroxide (B) is selected from the group consisting of t-butylhydroperoxide, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutylhydroperoxide, p-methanhydroperoxide, cumenhydroperoxide, diisopropylbenzenhydroperoxide, 2,5-dimethylhexane-2,5-dihydroperoxide, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxy-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, di-t-butylperoxide, t-butylcumylperoxide, dicumylperoxide, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxi)cyclododecane, 2,2-bis(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-di-t-butylperoxicyclohexane, 2,5-dimethy-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane, 2,5-dimethy-2,5-di(t-butylperoxi)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxi-i-propyl)benzene, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(benzoylperoxy)hexane, 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxi)-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane, n-butyl-4,4-bis(t-butylperoxi)valerate, benzoylperoxide, m-toluyl-peroxide, p-chlorobenzoylperoxide, 2,4-dicyclobenzoylperoxide, t-butylperoxy-i-butylate, t-butylperoxi-2-ethylhexanoate, t-butylperoxibenzoate, t-butylperoxi-i-propylcarbonate, and t-butylperoxi-allylcarbonate.